

# Florida Rugby Union

## Annual General Meeting - Meeting Minutes

Recording of the meeting is available [here](#)

**Date:** Saturday, September 8th 2018

**Location**

Hyatt Place Orlando Airport  
 5435 Forbes Pl, Orlando, Florida 32812  
 10am to 1pm

**Attendees**

Name	Club	Name	Club
Jamie Vance	Orlando Women's	Virgina Perez	Ft Miami Women
Gavin McLeavy	Okapi Wanderers	Matthew Hayden	Okapi Wandereres
Michael Fitzpatrick	Indian River	Lewis Morejun	Indian River
Chris Kujawa	Indian River	Andrew Tanner	Sarasota Surge
Gary Jones	Sarasota Surge	Tom Atkinson	Sarasota Surge
Jason Schiessl	Sarasota Surge	Michael Toms	Miami Tridents
Sean Murray	Miami Tridents	Jose Bermudez	Miami Tridents
Leonel Ruiz	Miami Tridents	Bill McDonough	Key West RFC
Conal Badger	Key West RFC	Scott Little	Brevard
Mick Graham	Brevard	Corkey Newman	Brevard
Justin Townsend	Key West RFC	Jared Rozowsky	Gainesville
Jared Rozowsky	UF Women	Ken Simmonds	UF Men
Beltron Lozano	UM Men	Franklin Williams	UM Men
Bill Clements	Miami RFC	Rick Cominsky	Miami RFC
Aaron Martin	Tampa Krewe Men	Jeffery Heron	Tampa Krewe Men
Ryan Quay	Tampa Krewe Men	Peter Dobson	Indian River Women
Chris Corchado	Orlando Men	Jeremy Lockett	UCF Men

Andres Gonzalez	UCF Men	Laurell Cuza	UCF Women
Jennifer Fasano	UCF Women	Jason Darby	Lakeland Lancers
Savannah Fransbergen	USF Women	Eyal Hakin	Phoenix 7s / FT Miami
Ryan Moran	Boca Raton	John-Henry Carstens	Boca Raton
Faith Frings	USF Women	Trevor Breningsten	USF Men
Michelle Magallon	FSU Women	Raoul Besse	UCF Women
Perry Dempsey	Bay Area Men	Steve Profit	Central Florida Claymores
Grant Seymour	Central Florida Claymores	Jamie Moncur	Central Florida Claymores
A Andrews	Jacksonville Women	Ciara Lehare	Jacksonville Women
Mel Butler	Jacksonville Men	Matt Tierney	Naples Men
Roy Monk	FRRRA	Gary Nation	FRRRA
Freddie Torres-Garcia	FIU Men (Online)	Michael Gomez	FSU Men (Online)
Kirk Swanner	FRU (FCC Director)	Kerri O'Malley	FRU President
Kevin Murtaugh	FRU Vice President	Melissa Butler	FRU Vice President
Matt Tierney	FRU Treseauer	Jessica Premet	FRU Vice President
Evan Haigh	FRU General Manager	Stev Braunstein	FRU Vice President

**Meeting Officially began at 10.01am**

Introduction

- All board members except Mike Giebel in attendance

President Report

- Team accomplishments
  - Multiple clubs finished top 4
  - Perry Baker and Kris Thomas to Rugby World Cup 7s
- Competition Structure
  - Spring 15s competition
  - NSCRO men fall 15s
  - Club moving from one division to another
    - USA Rugby rules
  - Planned schedule before AGM
- Return of the Men's Colleges

- From SIRC to FRU
- UF, FSU, USF, UCF, UM, FAU, FIU
- Now the Florida Collegiate Conference (FCC)
- Greater referee needs!
- Game Day Assistant
  - Provide someone on match day, but not everyone's match
  - Prefer an assistant referees for touch judges
  - Certified touch judge
  - Mainly used for big matches
  - USA Rugby is encouraging this and has information on website now
- Referee Incentive Program
  - Incentives for new referees that get certified and within 6 months achieve a 10-6 score on the beep test
    - Course refundable once you AR 5 matches or call 3 15s matches- \$75
    - Call at least 3 sevens matches at 3 different summer tournaments this summer- \$100
    - Call 8 15s matches from once you take the course to the end of Spring 2019- \$500
- Membership
  - Down 10%
    - Reflects national numbers
  - Dues are same as 2013
  - Current priority is to improve the website
    - Merge website with youth website
    - Would like to hire Charlee Velazquez- will discuss during budget
    - Improve site would make it easier for sponsors
- Feedback & Thank You's!
  - Referee course- \$75
  - Why not increase dues for CIPP on USA Rugby?
    - Kerri agrees
  - Game day assistant?
    - Basically a way to give incentives for assistant referees
    - NOT a disciplinary chair, simply an AR and game day roster checker
    - Referees do not want to check the IDs, this would be the Game Day Assistant's task
    - If there is a discipline issue, the Game Day Assistant would help if still present as touch judge during match

#### 7's Director Report

- Raised Funds
  - Cost to send a team to Vegas is expensive
  - Steve has raised money more and more every year
  - Now have a dedicated field for 7s due to fundraising in Sebastian!
    - For the FRU
  - Been able to attend Vegas 7s for 4 years
- Been difficult to get a women's 7s team due to low amount of women's teams in Florida
  - A lot of the women have been the same ladies every year
- Trainings start in September
- Events
  - Men's Vegas 7s Elite- 2015-2018
  - Women's Vegas 7s Elite- 2016-2017

- Men's Grunk 7s 2017
- USA Rugby Camps
- Mexico National Teams 2015-2016
- Training with Canadian National Team at IMG 2016
- National Tournament Prep vs. FIU
- Annual Tournaments
  - Summer 7s
  - 5 tournaments a summer on average
    - We have more than other states
- USA Rugby National Qualification Issues
  - Men's changes
    - One qualifier only
  - Women's changes
    - One qualifier only
  - Must play in the qualifiers the first two weekends on June in Florida and Carolinas- June 8 and 15, 2019
  - Under review still- have a call in November
  - Steve wants to have a call before the November call
    - The format we want
    - Anyone who wants a competitive 7s team should be on this call

#### General Manager's Reports

- College men returning to union
  - FCC
  - 8 team competition
  - Better relationship between colleges and men's programs
- 2 college 7s tournaments coming up
  - Clydesdale division and open division for 23 clubs to attend as well
  - 1st teams to have eligibility paperwork in order
- Men's Florida Cup
  - 4, 20 min periods
    - First 3 periods count as a small portion and the last period counts for bonus points
      - Will send information amount of men's clubs
      - This is about referee development- Roy Monk will speak on this more
  - Looking for potential hosts of the final
- USA Rugby Stats
  - Will now be REQUIRED for all college teams during spring league season
  - Must be completed by 9am Monday mornings
  - Please let Evan know if running late on inputting information
  - Put reserves on the player list as well
  - Match assistants will randomly be onsite to check rosters and help with loading data
  - Evan will send information on login and how to do the data
- USA Rugby Eligibility Changes
  - Player movement between divisions is simplified
  - Every club is responsible for reading these rules
  - Men's Division 2 and 3
    - 50% rule- a player that plays in 4 Men's Division 2 matches may only play Men's Division 2 for the remainder of the competitive 15s season

- Actually stepping onto the field
- Women's Development Camp- October 6th
  - Attempted to have a conference call but it was unsuccessful
  - Split veterans and rookies and run 90 min. skill development then split and play matches
  - Coaches run this
  - Are we behind this?
    - USA South might be an option to tag along
    - What can we do to make the veteran women show up?
    - Using the USA Rugby South identification camp
    - Bring a team in from north to play?
    - The coaches said if we have it, they will show up
    - Will discuss more after main meeting
    - Opportunity for referee training?
- Eligibility questions
  - Only league matches count toward the Men's Division 2 50% rule (not Florida Club)
  - Continue with technical barriers and coaches stay in them
  - MUST line the field
  - Required to put technical zones on the opposite side of the fan areas
    - The Game Day Assistant will be the monitor of this

#### Treasurer Report

- FRU 2017 Budget
  - Revenue is down due to membership decline
  - FCC will increase revenue this year
  - Financial fees- includes 2 years
  - Only budgeted \$500 for website
    - Raise dues to increase this budget
    - Clubs want to increase CIPP fee for the FRU to have a better website
  - We went a little over on the Winter Festival
  - Coach Education
    - Brumbies Summit- used a grant to bring them in
- Clubs asked for the possibility of a singular website where everyone buys their kit, gear, etc. such as an overall FRU sponsor
  - Would all the clubs put a singular company logo on their jerseys?
  - We need people to step up and take charge of this- have a committee
  - Clubs typically like to control their website and who they buy from
- FRU 2018 Budget
  - Including the High Performance Program for 7s (haven't have a HPP 15s men team in years)
  - Increased the 7s budget
  - An area we want to focus on raising dues to increase website budget
  - Question asked about men's 15s HPP team because the college men are back
  - Men's College budget will increase because the FCC has now formed
  - Question asked about adding a Travel Expenditure Budget
    - By increase dues
    - Matt states you'll see less people CIPP because they cannot afford it
- **VOTE to increase dues:**
  - Motion to increase by Boca Men- \$10 due increase to USA Rugby
  - 2nd by Orlando

- 3rd by Miami
- FRU Dues would be \$43 on USA Rugby
- What other unions pay to register
  - Capital Union- \$25 a player and their annual budget is \$65,000
- This would go into effect in the current registration cycle for 2018-2019 or would be next cycle 2019-2020
- Krewe proposed to make it a Club Fee instead
- College Women asked if we can avoid doing that for college teams
- TABLED to New Business

#### New Clubs

- We have 9 new clubs this year
  - 7 men's college teams returning from the SIRC and now want to be full members
    - FAU, FIU, FSU, UCF, UF, UNF, and USF
  - 2 new men's clubs- Lakeland and Central Florida Claymores
    - Lakeland- played some 7s and a small amount of 15s
      - Increasing numbers
      - Krewe member helping
      - Wanting to be D3 Men
      - Interest in a women's club as well
      - Need a set of by-laws
      - Have 6 on an executive board
      - Colors- red and black
        - Primarily black with red and white
    - Central Florida Claymores
      - Steve Profit
        - Tallahassee rugby founder
      - Orlando is a major city that is very widespread
      - Found a niche of players that have felt left-out
      - Desire to be D3 Men
      - Want to provide more opposition for men's clubs
      - By Laws done
      - Colors- blue and white
      - Currently have 3 board members working on constitution
      - Secured facilities indoor and outdoor and at least one main sponsor coming up
      - What parts of town? Southside of Orlando such as downtown
- Motion to allow the 9 teams into Union
  - 1st- Okapi Men
  - 2nd- Tampa Krewe
  - 3rd- Miami Tridents
- Motion passed all 9 clubs in Union- none opposed

#### Elections

- President
  - Current- Kerri O'Malley
  - Running- Kevin
  - Motion to vote:
    - Nominates Kevin- Boca

- 2nd- Pelican
  - Nominates Kerri- Fort Miami
    - 2nd- Okapi
- Kerri retains President by a vote of 27 to 4
- Treasurer
  - Current- Matt
  - Motion to vote:
    - 1st- Gainesville
    - 2nd- Miami Tridents
  - Matt retains Treasurer
- Women's VP/Director
  - Current- Melissa Butler
    - Most likely has 1 year left
  - Will run: Jamie from Orlando Women
  - Motion to vote:
    - 1st- Okapi
    - 2nd- Naples Men
  - Mel retains Women's Director
- 7s Director
  - Current- Steve Braunstein
  - Motion to vote:
    - 1st- Lakeland Men
    - 2nd- Indian River

#### New Business

- Boca Raton Men votes to increase FRU dues by \$10
  - Senior and college
  - Effective immediately
  - Funds go to FRU discretion
  - Motion to vote: Evan Haigh
  - Vote is: AGAINST increasing dues (19 to 12 - 1 abstain)
  - Board will review this and come up with a business plan
    - Possibly attempt to increase reserve funds by a small percentage
    - Create a foundation fund to fund the website and teams moving on to the next level
    - There is a movement to create a budget and committee to evaluate what kind of funding we need moving forward
      - ACTION ITEM
      - 90 days to revisit this and formulate a committee

#### By-Law Changes

- 45 days notice about these by-law changes
- Will have a conference call and after each club has 24 hours to vote
- Discipline Policy
  - Disconnect between our by-laws and USA Rugby's
  - USA Rugby has deferred to World Rugby
  - Kerri is proposing to create language to refer to regulation 17 as our guidelines for discipline procedures. Would like to include language that increases the timeline from 48 hours to 72 hours however. Red card suspension is 2 weeks or 2 matches whichever is longer.

- [www.worldrugby.org/handbook/regulations/reg-17/reg-17](http://www.worldrugby.org/handbook/regulations/reg-17/reg-17)
- Discipline Committee to make sure there is consistency
  - Regulation 17.17.2 states no admin error can decrease the time
- Will send out language within 45 days

#### Referees- FRRRA

- Roy Monk- President
- We currently have 82 names in the referee system
  - Majority are totally inactive
  - Some just want to referee youth matches
  - 20 active referees
  - 10 part-time/admin referees if there is a need for a sir
- We are at our limit with referees
- We need to recruit referees big time
- Multiple referee development courses this fall
- Roy is willing to do more courses
- The number of people that actually become a full time referee is extremely low
  - 1 in 10 in conversion rate
- Compensation for referees: \$1 per minute and can claim mileage
- Recruiting referees:
  - Club admins, talk to past players and get them to sir
- To be an Assistant Referee, you have to be a certified referee
- Touch Judge course is \$10 on USA Rugby website
- Development:
  - During the Florida Cup, there will be rookie referees
    - Please respect them
  - Fall is development for the referees
- On the website, there is a referee feedback form
  - Only the admin of the FRRRA sees this form. Use it!
  - Can attach video to form
  - Please be specific
- Call Roy with any issues and record the matches
- Roy proposes to give it at least 15 minutes post game to ask questions from the referee. Allow everyone to cool off then have a discussion.

#### Closing

- Great turnout this year --> 75 to 80 people
- Great discussion
- Referee incentives

**Meeting Officially Closed at 1.11pm**